Leominster June 22nd/44

Dear Mrs Chapman

I received the package of books you sent me, one week since. I immediately commenced distributing them. I donot find but eight Bells for the year 43 can it be possible that four are lost? or did you send only eight? You stated in your letter that there were 12 lots. I did not find 12 complete lots. I have sent a full lot to each of the following towns.

Received by Mrs Elvira Kimball	Lunenburg.	Here we have a faithful few.
do Mrs Mary B. Snow	Fitchburg.	do " " — — —
" Mrs B. M. L. White	Ashburnham.	three or four.
" Miss Martha Barker	Gardner.	very few.
" Mrs Lucinda B. Miles	Westminster.	do — —,
" Miss Eliza Howe	Princeton.	Strong & true.
" Mrs Susan W. Clark	Hubbardston.	A strong circle here.
" Mrs Abby Gage	Petersham.	very few atall interested.
" Mrs Hannah Barnard	Berlin.	Only two or three active.

And one, I have reserved for Leom. which leaves a part of two lots. I had thought it best to send back the remainder, but concluded to wait & hear your opinion. I have no 43 Bells for Leom & Berlin. If you have them. & wish me to return the other two lots. Perhaps you will send two Bells. If any thing has happened that these four books are lost, of course I am responsible for them. I shall feel some anxiety untill I hear from you, for I confess I am exceedingly puzzled about them. There were three of the 12th anual rpt Mass Soc — to each lot, & some four or five over these I sent to towns that seemed most to need light. —

Please tell me if I have done right in this matter. I had thought to

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send one set to Miss Catharine H. Carter of Lancaster, but as there is no circle, & very little interest there, I will not send till I hear from you. I have enclosed one of each of the circulars in every package of books, & urged upon the ladies the importance of giving them as extensively a circulation as possible. particularly that of the Amer. Socy. The circulars I shall send to Lancaster whether I do the books or not. I have not heard from all the ladies to whom I sent books but probably shall this week. I will give you seasonable notice if any thing happens to prevent their being received. Those whom I have heard from, are very grateful for the books. & assure me they will make an effort to contribute something for the next Bell —

I am rejoiced to learn that we have a new Executive committee — in the Amer. Soc. I really feared last winter, that whole matter, Standard & all, would sink — but thanks to those spirits, the Society & Standard is yet alive. & I trust will yet do the work it is so well fitted to do. I learn by the circular that the committee propose holding conventions in every free state if the means are provided. & say 'shall funds be provided' — I answer yes. so far as my feeble efforts will avail any aid. it shall be promptly furnished. I am so situated at present that it is impossible for me to do any thing of consequence for the fair — & probably I shall not do any thing this season — I have called some eight or ten meetings for this purpose, but as yet cannot get so much as a plural number to meet me — those who assisted me last year (only two or three) are now actually unable to do any but their own work. But thank Providence I have my tongue & pen left yet. & I will use them to plead with every one whom I think will contribute any thing towards carrying on this great work. Would to Heaven I had the means of doing all I desire to do. then I am sure I would be useful indeed. Allow me to suggest the importance of

family. within my power. Your friend & Co-laborer — J. H. Drake sending out some lady to the conventions, to get up sewing circles. I do feel confident. that the society would be more than repaid for the expence of sending one; I do feel the importance of this very much - knowing from the experience I had while out last. Spring with Abby, that many good & true hearts would take hold of the work in good faith if they knew what to do. In several towns where I proposed forming a circle. the ladies had never seen a circular, or the Liberator, & knew nothing about the fair. I assure you, they were really grateful for the little information I gave them on the subject - & said, "After all we can be useful, we wish to aid the cause. & if we can do it in this way, we will work in ernest!!" I am sure women generally back in the country do not know their rights, & privileges in this cause, "the lords of creation" teach them to b in their appropriate Sphere. & they, quiet, submissive, lambs, y to their superiors better judgement. & obey. I trust the day is coming when woman will be fitted for higher duties, (nay, she is already fit, could she be allowed to act out her noble nature) than superintending the dinner pot & wash tub, & submiting to the abuses & whims of tyrant man. But where am I running to. I am sure I am quite off my track. when I see kind hearted & intelligent women made to believe, they have no other duties, than their own domestic affairs, I cannot hold my peace, this is true here as well as else where, they give me as an excuse for not aiding the fair. "My husband (he is not worthy the endearing name) thinks it is mens work to liberate the slave. & womens to take care of their own affairs". As it happens I feel the affairs of the slave are as much mine as his, so I donot depart from duty in this matter. But this does not seem to be on the point I commenced on. You will I beg, pardon the suggestion if it is inappropriate - I fear you will tire of my frequent & lengthy, would be letters.

You have my most heartfelt thanks for our books. I shall get them into every family. within my power.

Your friend & Co-laborer - J. H. Drake

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7)8
1 - 1
40
7)40
5 = 5
1/4
7)151 1/4
21 - 4 1/4
9
7)38 1/4

8
5
9)40
4 = 4
40
9)160
17 - 7
16
9)115 1/2
12 - 7 1/2
12
9)90
10

272 1/4
5
7)1361 1/4
194 - 3 1/4

~~9~~
~~7)[illegible]~~
~~4 1/4~~

144
3 1/4
7)465 1/4
66 - 3 1/4

33 1/4

Mrs Maria W. Chapman
39 Summer St Boston
Mass
~~To be left at No 25 Cornhill~~

Thos. Drake.
Leominster
/44
Names of Women
in Worcester Co.

Ms.A.9.2.20.43